

REMARKS

Summary of the Office Action

Claims 1, 10 and 23-24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by *Harvey, III et al.* (USPN 5,686,360).

Claims 2, 4, 9, and 11-13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Harvey, III et al.* in view of *Haskal et al.* (USPN 5,952,778).

Claims 5-8 and 14-18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Harvey, III et al.* in view of *Suzuki et al.* (USPN 6,198,217).

Claims 19-22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Harvey, III et al.* in view of *Suzuki et al.* and further in view of *Shibata* (USPN 4,489,101).

Summary of the Response to the Office Action

Upon entry of this paper, claims 1-4, 9-13, 18, and 21-28 will be pending.

The Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102(b) and 103(a)

Claims 1, 10 and 23-24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by *Harvey, III et al.* (USPN 5,686,360). Claims 2, 4, 9, and 11-13 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Harvey, III et al.* in view of *Haskal et al.* (USPN 5,686,360). Claims 5-8 and 14-18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Harvey, III et al.* in view of *Suzuki et al.* (USPN 6,198,217). Claims 19-22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Harvey, III et al.* in view of *Suzuki et al.* and further in view of *Shibata* (USPN 4,489,101). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections for at least the following reasons.

Claims 5-8, 14-17, and 19-20 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejections of these claims are moot.

The EL structure of *Harvey, III et al.* has three sealing films: a first sealing film is a buffer layer 24 of a material such as Alq; a second sealing film is a thermal coefficient matching layer 26 of a material such as SiO₂; and a third sealing film is an inorganic layer 28 of a material such as Si₃N₄. Thus, the first sealing film is an organic layer, the second sealing film is an inorganic layer, and a third sealing is an inorganic layer. In contrast, according to the present invention, the EL device comprises three sealing film layers: the first sealing film is an inorganic layer; the second sealing film is an organic layer; and the third sealing film is an organic layer.

Moreover, Applicants assert that *Haskal et al.* cannot remedy these deficiencies because only two sealing films are disclosed: a first sealing film is an organic layer and a second sealing film is an inorganic layer. *Haskal et al.* does not disclose a third sealing film. Because the metal layer is formed as a stripe, the metal layer does not cover a cathode and is not an inorganic passivation film. As such, both *Harvey, III et al.* and *Haskal et al.* disclose an organic layer formed on the laminated structure while the present claims recite an inorganic layer formed on the laminated structure.

Applicants respectfully note that the Office Action does not rely on *Suzuki et al.* and *Shibata* to teach any of these features. In addition, Applicants respectfully assert that *Suzuki et al.* and *Shibata* cannot remedy these deficiencies.

Thus, Applicants respectfully assert that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102(b) and 103(a) should be withdrawn because the applied art, whether taken singly or combined, do not teach or suggest each feature of independent claims 1 and 10, as amended. Furthermore, Applicants respectfully assert that dependent claims 2-4, 9, 11-13, 18, and 21-24 are allowable at least because of their respective dependence from independent claims 1 and 10, as amended, and the reasons set forth above.

New Claims 25-28

Applicants have added new dependent claims 25-28 to further define the invention. Applicants respectfully assert that new dependent claims 25-28 are allowable over the applied art at least because of their respective dependence from independent claims 1 or 10, as amended, and the reasons set forth above. Moreover, Applicants respectfully assert that new dependent claims 25-28 are allowable over the applied art because of the features recited therein.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and the timely allowance of the pending claims. Should the Examiner feel that there are any issues outstanding after consideration of the response, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicants' undersigned representative to expedite prosecution.

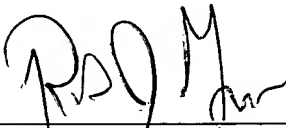
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Respectfully submitted

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